

PROCEDURES FOR DISPOSING OF BALANCES OF PRIOR FISCAL YEAR APPROPRIATIONS  
AND FOR THE LIQUIDATION OF OBLIGATIONS CHARGEABLE THERETO

1956  
General Regulations No. 131

General Accounting Office  
Office of the Comptroller General  
of the United States  
Washington 25, August 7, 1956

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Regulation is to implement the immediately operative provisions of the Act of July 25, 1956, Public Law 798, 84th Congress, with respect to the payment of claims chargeable to lapsed appropriations and the liquidation of the "Payment of Certified Claims" account, established pursuant to the Act of July 6, 1949, 31 U.S.C. 712b. A revised Regulation will be subsequently issued to discontinue procedures herein provided for the accomplishment of executed non-recurring transactions and to provide procedures for the accomplishment of the permanent and continuing provisions of the Act.

2. Assignment of Accounts. (a) The Treasury Department will assign for each appropriation account, including allocation and working fund accounts, which lapsed on June 30, 1956, a successor symbol and title to denote an appropriation account indefinitely available for the payment of obligations chargeable to any lapsed appropriation for the same general purposes. To accomplish this, the basic symbol of the lapsed appropriation account will be prefixed by an "M" to indicate a successor appropriation account for the same general purposes, such appropriation account to be unavailable for new obligations but indefinitely available for the payment of obligations chargeable to any and all of its predecessors. For example, the account "Management and Protection, National Park Service, Prior Years" will be identified by the symbol "14M1033," which indicates that it is the successor to lapsed appropriation accounts for the same general purpose and is indefinitely available for the payment of obligations chargeable to such lapsed appropriation accounts.

(b) Successor symbols and titles will be assigned by the Treasury Department for lapsed appropriations under discontinued appropriation heads when requested by the agency concerned. Successor symbols and titles for discontinued accounts should be requested only in cases where there is no current appropriation available for the same general purpose. Where there is a current appropriation so available, the balances and transactions of discontinued appropriation heads will be merged with and accounted for under the successor symbol and title for the current appropriation. Such mergers will generally follow the budget presentation; that is, the "transfer in the estimates" and comparative transfer shown in the budget will serve as guidelines to the situation where a merger of accounts is appropriate in setting up successor symbols and titles.

(c) Mergers of obligated balances within successor accounts for lapsed consolidated working funds will be limited to the merger of balances of advances from appropriations for the same general purposes. Performing agencies will be responsible, as provided in Supplement No. 3, General Regulations No. 84 - Second Revision, for establishing and maintaining decimal suffix subsidiary accounts to segregate balances of advances by appropriation purposes. For example, obligated balances of advances from appropriations for "Ordnance and Facilities, Navy" in lapsed consolidated working fund accounts "14 3908" would be merged in the successor working fund account "14M3908 Working Fund, Interior, Geological Survey, Prior Years" without regard to fiscal years and would be distinguished from balances derived from appropriations for other purposes by a decimal suffix appended to the account symbol. Such decimal suffixes should be shown on all basic vouchers and/or invoices charging successor consolidated working fund accounts.

3. Transfer of Lapsed Appropriation Balances. Action will be initiated by the agencies as heretofore to process Standard Forms No. 1151- Revised, Non-Expenditure Transfer Authorization, transferring to the Treasury Department appropriation account "20X1850 Payment of Certified Claims" unexpended balances of appropriations which lapsed on June 30, 1956.

4. Processing of Claims By Agencies. (a) Effective not later than September 1, 1956, and until further notice, agencies should discontinue, except as indicated in paragraph 5 below, the transmittal to the General Accounting Office of claims chargeable to fiscal year 1954 and prior year appropriations. Transactions administratively approved for payment as chargeable against lapsed appropriations will be processed by the agencies through regular disbursing channels for payment from the successor appropriation accounts established by the Treasury Department.

(b) Claims received in the General Accounting Office through August 31, 1956, which are chargeable to lapsed appropriation accounts will be adjudicated in that Office. However, after adjudication, the settlement documents will be transmitted to the agency whose appropriations are involved. Amounts approved by the General Accounting Office for payment will be processed for payment by the involved agencies and will be paid through regular disbursing channels from the successor appropriation accounts.

5. Limitations on Agency Authority to Process Claims. Agencies are not authorized to process claims chargeable to lapsed appropriations which are not administratively approved for payment within six years from the date the right to payment accrued; claims which involve doubtful questions of law or fact, including claims arising out of freight and passenger transportation services as to which the agency does not have documentary and fiscal records to permit final determination of the issues involved; or claims which are otherwise required to be settled in the General Accounting Office. Claims in these categories will be transmitted to the General Accounting Office for adjudication.

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6. Disposition of Collections. Except as otherwise provided by law, collections which are properly for application as appropriation repayments but which are not received by the agencies until after the applicable appropriations have lapsed will be credited to the successor appropriation accounts.

7. Temporary Procedure for Appropriation Transfers to Pay Claims. Effective immediately and pending final liquidation of the appropriation account "20X1850 Payment of Certified Claims," as required by the Act, funds in the account "20X1850" will be made available as needed by transfers from the account "20X1850" to the successor agency appropriation accounts. These transfers will be initiated by the agency as of the end of each month by Standard Form No. 1151-Revised (Exhibit A) charging the account "20X1850" in the amount of total vouchers scheduled for payment by the administrative agency during the month then ending for the payment of obligations against lapsed appropriations and crediting appropriate agency successor accounts. Where doubt exists as to the sufficiency of balances under lapsed appropriations to pay bills chargeable thereto, the agency concerned, before approving payment, should ascertain that the amount due is within the limits of the balance under the involved appropriation. This information may be obtained by calling the General Accounting Office, Code 195, Extensions 3030 and 3155. No transfers under this paragraph will be accomplished after December 31, 1956, unless special arrangements are made with the Office of the Comptroller General of the United States.

8. Analysis and Report of Obligations and Receivables Applicable to Lapsed Appropriations. Preparatory to final liquidation of the "Payment of Certified Claims" account, agencies should begin immediately to analyze their obligation records and accounts for the purpose of determining the amounts of unpaid obligations meeting the requirements of section 1311 of the Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1955, and uncollected receivables applicable to lapsed appropriations. From such analyses, data should be developed in report form (Exhibit B) showing by lapsed appropriation accounts (1) the total amounts of unpaid obligations with the names of the individual creditors and the amounts applicable to each creditor and indicating whether the case has been transmitted to the General Accounting Office for settlement and (2) the total amounts of uncollected receivables. Obligations which have been outstanding for ten years or more should not be reported as obligations unless claims therefor were transmitted to the General Accounting Office for settlement within ten years from the date the right to payment accrued. Receivables determined to be administratively uncollectible should not be included in the reports.

9. Liquidation of "Payment of Certified Claims" Account. On completion of the analyses required by paragraph 8, agencies should initiate

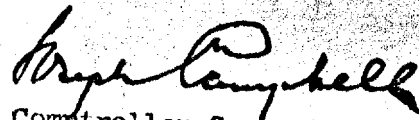
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Standard Form No. 1151-Revised (Exhibit C), supported by the original and one copy of the reports developed from such analyses, transferring the amounts of net obligations (gross obligations less uncollected receivables) from the "Payment of Certified Claims" account to appropriate successor agency accounts. Agencies which can initiate immediate transfer actions under this paragraph should disregard procedures provided in paragraph 7.

10. Routing of Transfer Authorizations Charging "20X1850". Agencies will transmit an original and three copies of the transfer authorizations charging the account "20X1850" and crediting successor agency accounts to--

Administrative Finance Section  
Office of Administrative Services  
General Accounting Office  
Washington 25, D. C.

for approval and transmittal to the Treasury Department for accomplishment and distribution of the copies in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5B of General Regulations No. 125.

  
Comptroller General  
of the United States